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Women In Agriculture

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Cornhusker Economics

Cooperative Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Nebraska – Lincoln
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Women In Agriculture

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	11/12/04
<u>Livestock and Products,</u>			
<u>Weekly Average</u>			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight	\$104.08	\$84.65	\$82.81
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb	111.09	124.27	122.03
Nebraska Feeder Steers, Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb	109.92	117.93	104.39
Choice Boxed Beef, 600-750 lb. Carcass	169.41	137.28	132.31
Western Corn Belt Base Hog Price Carcass, Negotiated	47.16	67.65	77.36
Feeder Pigs, National Direct 45 lbs, FOB	33.90	49.95	55.75
Pork Carcass Cutout, 185 lb. Carcass, 51-52% Lean	56.52	75.65	76.30
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 90-160 lbs., Shorn, Midwest	89.37	88.50	90.37
National Carcass Lamb Cutout, FOB	208.51	219.88	225.51
<u>Crops,</u>			
<u>Daily Spot Prices</u>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Omaha, bu	3.84	3.31	3.32
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu	2.31	1.77	1.64
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu	7.62	4.74	5.01
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Columbus, cwt	3.93	2.84	2.68
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN, bu	1.61	1.62	1.66
<u>Hay</u>			
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton	115.00	115.00	115.00
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton	67.50	62.50	62.50
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	65.00	57.50	57.50
* No market.			

Although farm numbers continue to decline, women in agriculture are increasing their responsibility in decision making and management on the farm. According to the 2002 U.S. Agricultural Census the number of farms in Nebraska was 49,355, down 10 percent from 1997. However, the number of female principle operators in Nebraska was up from 2,948 in 1997 to 3,005 in 2002 according to the census. This is a small increase compared to the 13 percent jump of women operating farms in the nation (209,784 in 1997 to 237,819 in 2002). Of those principal female operators in Nebraska, 1,568 have farming as their primary occupation and 949 work more than 200 days off the farm, compared to 883 in 1997. Of the women who are principal operators, 2,067 have been on the present farm for 10 years or more. The average age of the women principal operators is 59.7 which is 5.8 years older than the average age of all Nebraska farmers. As women's involvement in agriculture continues and more women become principal operators, their need for education and networking is more important than ever. The University of Nebraska's conference "Women in Agriculture: Today's Critical Difference" provides farm/ranch business management information for women in agriculture to persevere in this challenging industry.

The 20th Annual Women in Agriculture Conference was held September 16-17, 2004 in Kearney, Nebraska. Over 385 women from seven states and 72 Nebraska counties attended. Lenders and agribusinesses played an important part sponsoring 274 women. This year's conference offered twenty-three workshops focusing on a variety of issues including hedging, money management, options, carbohydrates, global positioning systems and ways to boost profit. Other topics included check-off dollars, achieving life balance, marketing, attracting and retaining quality employees and landscaping. In addition there were several keynote speakers. Joan and Julie Burney, natives of Nebraska, brought an essential message on the importance and value of laughter. Sarah Fogleman, an Extension Ag Economist from Kansas, spoke on family relationships. "How many of you came because you love

"I enjoyed the fellowship and good fun as well as gaining new wisdom from other farm wives," stated a 2004 conference participant.

a farm or how many of you came because you love a farmer?" This was a question Fogleman asked to support her point of the importance of accepting people coming into a farming business with different backgrounds and interests.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary the original founders were recognized. Glennis McClure, Jane Green, Pat Parmley, Larry Bitney and Deb Rood put their knowledge and passions together in 1985 to develop this very successful program.

There were several "new" components to the conference this year. Karrie Blake was introduced to her first Women in Ag Conference as the new program coordinator. This year was also the first time for participants to have an opportunity to visit attending educational booths. Ten businesses displayed information for the women to peruse during breaks and between workshops. Lastly, a tradition of presenting a scholarship in memory of Deb Rood was started. Lois Thomsen of Exeter, Nebraska, won the scholarship when her name was drawn. This award will cover her registration fees and hotel expenses for next year's conference, and her name will be put on a plaque in honor of Deb.

The 2005 Women in Agriculture Conference is scheduled for September 15-16 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. On the horizon is a new program called Annie's Project. The goal of Annie's Project is to provide an educational program designed to empower

farm/ranch women to manage information systems used in critical decision making processes, and develop network support which is essential for continuing education and self-help. As a result of this education, women become confident members of the management team for their farm/ranch operation. Annie was a woman who grew up in a small town in Northern Illinois. She married a farmer and spent her lifetime learning how to be an involved business partner with her husband. This project takes her experiences and shares it with farm women living and working in a complex business. The program is to be delivered in a series of six workshops that are three hours in length. It will combine lecture, discussion, individual work, small group work, computer work and audio/visual support to address the topics of risk, financial statements, understanding personalities, marketing plans, business plans, estate planning, spreadsheets and technology. It is planned for this project to be delivered during the spring of 2005. Additionally, Nebraska farmers and ranchers will be hosting approximately 20 visiting Australians in July.

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